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COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION INTO THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

Note by the Executive Secretary

Introduction

1. The primary objective of the operational activities of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, is to promote self-reliance of recipient countries through multilateral cooperation. The fundamental characteristics of these operational activities is their universal, neutral and gratuitous nature and their ability to respond to the needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner. They constitute a critical and unique resource in enabling countries with economies in transition to exercise the leading role in the management of their own transition processes for the integration into the world economy i.e. to internalize transition within an enabling environment created by coordinated and supportive action by ECE, the United Nations system and other multilateral assistance efforts of the organizations active in the ECE region.

2. In the past the regional commissions provided less than 5% of the overall assistance to recipient countries. The most recent decentralization efforts resulted in an increase of resources available for the regional operational activities, primarily advisory services and fellowship programmes. In view of Commission decision B (49) efforts were made to diversify forms and methods of the operational activities and to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system using the established mechanism of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) and through increased consultations with the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, UNCTAD, ILO, UNIDO, IAEA and non United Nations entities: the European Union, OECD, CSCE, EBRD etc., which have resulted in reinforcing the existing forms of assistance and developing new modalities of cooperation as presented briefly in this report.

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A. Programme of workshops

3. Owing to the increased demand for workshops and to the decision of the forty-ninth session of the Commission to continue and strengthen the programme of workshops and seminars, the ECE secretariat has made efforts to provide a summary evaluation of recent workshops. The aim is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of future workshops, based on lessons learned from past experiences.

4. Since the programme began in May 1990 a total of 145 workshops as of 31 December 1994 have been held on economic transition issues in the following fields: human settlements; environment; industrial development; energy; transport, communication and tourism; statistics; international trade and development finance; development issues and policies; food and agriculture; forestry and timber.

5. Efforts have also been made to secure an interdisciplinary approach and to introduce new subjects which could be illustrated by workshops on issues as varied as the reconversion of coal-mining regions; gender; and ageing.

6. Any overlap with the activities of other international organizations and institutions in the region has been carefully avoided and many of them, such as the programmes of EUROSTAT (ECE/OECD/CEE) and PHARE (CEE), UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, GATT, IMC, ITC, OECD, UNIDO, UNCHS, UNDP, World Bank and WHO, are currently cooperating with ECE on the workshops. Workshops are also expected to be held with OECD, if resources permit.

7. The flexibility of the programme of workshops, in terms of choice of major themes and topics and organizational modalities, has enabled the programme to continue its upward trend.

8. Nine workshops were held in 1990, 27 in 1991, 35 in 1992 and 39 in 1993 (6 workshops from 1 January 1993 to 30 March 1993 and 33 workshops from 1 April 1993 to 31 December 1993). During the period of the Commission session from 1 April 1993 to 15 April 1994, 35 workshops were held.

9. From 16 April 1994 to 31 March 1995 43 workshops were held or planned under ECE auspices. However, there is a great difference in terms of the number of workshops from one subject area to another: of the total 40 workshops, 7 related to energy, 8 to industrial development, 8 to human settlements, 8 to environment, 4 to food and agriculture, 4 to forestry and timber, 2 to statistics, 1 to development issues and policies, 1 to transport, 1 to assistance to the newly independent States, 2 to advancement of women and 1 to ageing issues.

10. Compared to the previous period (1993-94), the number of workshops in 1994-95 increased 25% (100% increase in countries in transition (CITs), 23% decrease in market-economy countries). But the number of host countries has declined both in countries in transition and in market-economy countries (from 23 to 17), with the result that more workshops were held in fewer countries.

11. During this period, 34 workshops were hosted by 10 countries with economies in transition: 10 by Hungary; 5 by the Russian Federation; 4 by Belarus; the Czech Republic, Romania and Ukraine hosted 3 workshops each,

while Poland and Slovakia hosted 1 workshop each. Estonia and Slovenia were host countries for 1 workshop. Seventeen workshops were held in 7 western countries: 6 in Switzerland, 3 in the Netherlands, 3 in Germany, 2 in Austria and 1 in France, Greece and Spain.

12. From the perspective of the host countries, reduction in the availability of resources for workshops was registered. Central and east European countries have shown a preference for organizing workshops on specific subject areas which could attract partners who could secure funding for concrete follow-up. Some workshops are organized at Geneva in conjunction with regular ECE meetings in order to save on travel expenses.

13. As previously reported the character of the workshops varies according to the objectives: (a) workshops for the exchange of general information on the transition process and for the training of nationals of countries in transition by experts from market economies; (b) workshops to provide national authorities with advice or international expertise on the development or implementation of concrete national legislation or policies; (c) workshops to tackle problems relevant to all countries of the ECE region or to prepare regional programmes to be submitted to outside donors for financial and technical assistance.

14. During the period April 1993-March 1995 most ECE workshops had a strong training component, so as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills and expertise, and support national capacity-building. These workshops respond to the emerging needs of countries in transition for training and learning through sharing experiences and information.

15. Participants in recent ECE workshops also suggested continuing the programme of workshops, especially as a form of training and exchange of practical country-based experience, and expressed the opinion that future workshops should concentrate more on the solution of practical problems through technical visits and make recommendations for more concrete follow-up.

16. The decision to hold a workshop, as well as the choice of topic, is generally demand-driven and is not necessarily tied directly to the Commission's programme of work and calendar of events. However, there is a close interrelationship between individual workshops and elements of the ECE regular work programme, which is being implemented in close cooperation with its member States.

17. Owing to the close interrelationship between the ECE programme of workshops and each principal subsidiary programme of work (i.e. with elements to which the Committees also assigned high priority), conclusions of workshops are regularly submitted and evaluated by PSBs. They provide specific and practical recommendations for the follow-up activities adopted by the major subsidiary bodies.

18. The ECE workshop programme is financed either through extrabudgetary resources or to a large extent by the countries in transition themselves. It is often supported by the business community and by bilateral contributions in cash or in kind from government and private sponsors in market economies.

19. The UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT), established to ensure that all member States could participate fully and

effectively in the work of ECE, provides a channel through which Governments, international organizations, institutions and other donors may contribute funds to help countries in transition and newly independent States to defray the costs of their participation in ECE meetings, including its workshops.

20. There is a need to consider the differences between the countries at an advanced stage of transition (central and eastern Europe) and those in the early stages of transition (newly independent States). These two categories have different problems and requirements.

21. Once needs have been well defined, ECE should keep supporting the choice and design of workshops, including setting up the agenda, securing lecturers and participants, providing organizational support, including the search for financial contributions. These multiple tasks as well as an increasing demand for more workshops impose the necessity to coordinate approaches with other international, regional and subregional institutions to secure the continuation and further growth of the workshop programme and the follow-up. This has been actively pursued by the ECE secretariat.

B. Advisory services

22. In the context of the restructuring of the United Nations secretariat in the economic and social sectors, ECE, starting from July 1994, established its regional advisory service programme which provides member countries in transition to a market economy, on their request, with advisory services in areas that they themselves identify as being the greatest need. The programme aims at providing Governments with information and advice on existing programmes, services and data in areas that they have designated as priorities. It promotes the capacity and institution building of member Governments to facilitate their integration into the European and world economy.

23. The programme interacts closely with the programmes of work of the Commission and of its Principal Subsidiary Bodies and focuses in particular on assisting Governments in implementing strategies, policies, legal instruments and standards prepared within the framework of the ECE.

24. ECE provides advisory services in transport, statistics, environment, trade, trade facilitation, energy, forestry and forest products, industrial development and in development issues and policies. Within the context of the programme for the period 1 July 1994-31 January 1995, the regional advisers have carried out a total of 46 missions. Countries in transition visited included Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Assistance was given in the identifying needs, identifying and preparing projects to assist in ECE convention implementation, capacity and institution building, and training. Regional advisers have received a considerable number of requests for advisory missions to practically all member States in transition to a market economy. To mobilize resources for particular projects, they also undertake fund- raising missions to donor countries and to the international organizations with assistance potential.

25. The Regional advisers generally work in consultation and cooperation with the corresponding resident representatives of the United Nations or UNDP, aiming at synergism of the efforts of the United Nations system.

26. Under the auspices of the programme, on 14 and 15 December 1994 the ECE secretariat organized a workshop on the role and functions of the ECE for the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union - countries in transition, having little or no experience of cooperation with ECE. The meeting was at the ministerial level and provided both participating member States and the secretariat with an opportunity to discuss the role and functions of ECE, especially concerning assistance to the countries in transition to a market economy. At the round table discussion within the framework of the workshop, the participants exchanged views on the relevance of the work and assistance of ECE to their countries and on the modalities of such assistance, in particular the assistance of the regional advisory service. The participants were unanimous in appreciating the assistance efforts of the Commission.

27. The group of countries represented at the workshop indicated that, while they appreciated the general direction of the current work of ECE, at this stage of development they had specific needs and priorities. In particular the issues of energy, transport, industrial development, agriculture, privatization and conversion of military enterprises for civilian uses were at the top of their current development agenda. They also underlined that at the present stage of economic reforms in their respective countries the task of paramount importance was the preparation of bankable projects, which could win the financial support of national and international investors.

28. The suggestions made by the participants in the workshop have been studied and will be incorporated, as practicable, into the work of the ECE secretariat and its regional advisory service. In particular, in relation to the promotion of foreign direct investments, it was suggested that the regional advisory service should explore ways of assisting countries in transition in finalizing their projects, so that they conform to the format and criteria accepted by international financial institutions.

29. The regional advisory service has also worked out a national programme of focused assistance to the Republic of Georgia. The first phase of the programme is scheduled to be implemented before the end of July 1995. The experience of this programme will be evaluated and applied to other cases of high priority.

30. The ECE secretariat is exploring possibilities for further intensifying cooperation of its regional advisory service with other relevant organizations, in particular with UNDP, the Commission of the European Communities, and international financial institutions, with the objective of fully utilizing existing strengths and exploiting complementarities so as to achieve synergy in assisting the countries in transition in the preparation of projects of international assistance in their transition to a market economy.

C. Fellowships

31. A portion of section 20 of the United Nations budget secured some modest financial means for fellowships. The new instruction geared to introducing innovations into the United Nations fellowship programme enabled the ECE

secretariat to use the funds for securing participation of experts at ECE workshops and expert meetings.

D. National capacity strengthening training programme

32. General Assembly resolution 47/198 on triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations system emphasized the necessity of developing common innovative and integrated system-wide training programmes, taking into account the use of regional cooperation management, for government officials and other nationals. Training programmes should, inter alia, include schemes for the training of national trainers. This decision complements Assembly resolution 48/181, which places emphasis on human resource development in countries in transition.

33. CCPOQ entrusted the International Training Centre of ILO in Turin with developing a training programme on the Management of development: national capacity strengthening, the objective of which is to help meet needs in a cost-effective manner through a "training of trainers" programme intended for national staff, to obtain a multiplier effect, and by establishing a network of training institutions. The training programme has benefited from the initial financial support of several donors, particularly the Governments of Italy, Germany and Switzerland.

34. Special features of the programme include the production, validation, testing and use of training material, including self-assessment computerized questionnaire (SAIL). So far several training modules have been fully developed including policy analysis and planning, introduction to organizational development, project formulation, budgeting, review and control for projects and project management. Other self-sustained modules are foreseen e.g. on the relationship between national entities and development partners.

35. The current programme of the ILO Turin Centre includes regional programmes based on region-specific priorities. The regional programme for the ECE region includes primarily national capacity strengthening and areas related to the ILO programme.

36. Following Commission decision B (49), contacts with the ILO Turin Centre were strengthened to explore the possibilities of future cooperation related to the ECE programme of work and demands expressed by countries with economies in transition. The initial cooperation could be launched in the field of energy efficiency, natural gas and establishment of small and medium enterprises by preparing training of trainers manuals.

37. Existing interagency training modules could be further adjusted to the specific regional needs of countries with economies in transition to include financial engineering and business management training.

38. During the second meeting of the European Regional Representatives of ACC members held at Geneva on 6 February 1995 and chaired by ECE, with the participation of IMF, IBRD, EBRD, Council of Europe, Commission of the European Communities, the strengthening of training efforts for the benefit of economies in transition was considered. It was recommended that the proposals for elaborating training materials/modules would be developed by the

participating institutions. The ILO will spearhead these efforts in close consultation with ECE.

E. Preliminary list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatisation and of transition to market conditions

39. In its decision B (49) the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to undertake necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in his report with special attention to the establishment in consultation with Governments of all interested member countries, the Commission of the European Communities, international organizations and private bodies, of a list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatisation and of transition of different economic sectors to market conditions, whose services could be offered to interested countries in transition, providing advisory services in the areas of environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation, energy, development of international trade, industry and technology, and agriculture and timber.

40. In response to the Executive Secretary's request addressed to member countries, the Commission of European Communities, relevant specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for names and addresses of experts and specialists in the above-mentioned areas for inclusion into the ECE list, as of 6 February 1995 the secretariat had received replies and information from 12 member countries, namely Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Finland, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as well as the World Trade Organization. In order to enable the interested parties to benefit from the information before all the replies to the ECE request come in, and also to receive possible comments and suggestions as to the presentation of the list, a preliminary version of the list has been compiled. The final version will be issued when the ECE secretariat receives an adequate volume of additional information, but no later than 31 December 1995.

F. Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme

41. The Secretary General's intention to strengthen the role of the regional commissions and later to integrate them into the work of the Organization resulted in a series of meetings with the United Nations senior officials.

42. A growing body of discussions related to global programmes of the Organization created common ground for cooperation in the United Nations system and member States, including the preparation of country strategy notes. The resident coordinator system of UNDP has been entrusted with responsibility emanating from resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and ECOSOC. The system should also foster enhanced collaboration with the World Bank, IMF and other international financial institutions. In view of new guidelines on the role and functioning of the resident coordinator system, the ECE secretariat has reinforced its interaction with resident coordinators, including the possibility of organizing regular annual meetings for securing the ECE support to regional and country programming processes.

43. A Regional Economic Commissions/UNDP Task Force has been established, which examines the regional structure of UNDP programmes and discusses measures to strengthen cooperation between UNDP and the regional commissions. It has been suggested that regional commissions be invited to the regional

meetings of resident coordinators. For the ECE region the meeting will take place in Ankara and ECE has been invited to attend.

44. During the fifth session of CCPOQ a general policy review of present and emerging requirements of recipient countries was reviewed. Related to the triennial policy review of operational activities for development, 14 countries were selected for in-depth country missions based on detailed questionnaires. In the ECE region Belarus, Uzbekistan and Turkey were selected for that review and ECE might be required to provide some inputs.

45. ECE could also cooperate with the system of resident coordinators within the region to support the preparation of the country strategy notes aimed at securing coordinated approach among different donors.

F. Cooperation with the Department of Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat

46. In 1994 a decision was taken by the Secretary-General to secure the joint management among five regional commissions and DDSMS of the United Nations Secretariat technical cooperation programme related to natural resources and energy.

47. Ways of organizing this cooperation will be discussed at a meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and the Under-Secretary General of DDSMS. The preliminary proposals would include joint programming missions of relevance to several regions, joint use of available technical support funds for programming purposes, follow-up to ECE regional advisers missions and support to ECE workshops. This cooperation provides only modest financial possibilities for increasing assistance to economies in transition, but will increase interaction and cooperation among regional commissions in the field of national resources and energy.

G. Cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

48. The Asian republics of the former Soviet Union are members of both ECE and ESCAP, which requires close cooperation between the two commissions, including joint solutions to some legal interpretations related to technical assistance. The process of consultation is under way, including regular exchange of information on operational activities relevant to both commissions. A concrete effort in joint programming has also been also launched related to the implementation of the ECE Convention on Transboundary Waters and International Lakes.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY ECE DIVISIONS TO OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

49. The ECE secretariat intends to pursue this cooperation in a more integrated manner in close ongoing consultations with the organizations concerned.

Policy Analysis and Projections

50. The Workshop on Public Investment Recovery in Transition Economies (Sinaia, Romania, 4-6 October 1994) covered a broad range of public sector activities in the economic and social fields. Its conclusions, in particular

on financing, could be of relevance to programming of future operational activities.

51. The Workshop on Transboundary Cooperation in the Geo-Economic Sub-region Bratislava-Gyor-Vienna, to be held at Bratislava in 1995 will open possibilities of subregional technical cooperation in different fields, including investment possibilities.

52. As reported under the ECE contribution to global programmes, ECE has developed a plan to assist economies in transition in the immediate follow-up of the International Conference on Population and Development. Accordingly ECE has appointed a regional adviser for a six-month period to assist with the finalization and implementation of the plan.

Statistics

53. The programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians has been substantially adapted to assist in the integration of countries in transition. However, many of these, and in particular the newly independent States, are prevented from participating in ECE work because of lack of financial resources. The Statistical Division has therefore been able to use PHARE and to a lesser extent TACIS funds through Eurostat, thereby ensuring a fuller participation at different meetings.

54. The appointment of a regional adviser in economic statistics in May 1994 has enabled ECE to provide direct assistance to a number of countries in transition. The work of the adviser has been closely coordinated with related assistance provided by OECD, Eurostat, IMF and others.

55. The Statistical Division has also embarked on a major project with UNDP. ECE is the executing agency for a three-year programme of technical assistance in social and demographic statistics to countries in transition and in particular to the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union. The project is being planned in close cooperation with a number of donor countries, with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Statistical Committee and with the Slovak Statistical Office.

56. Another good example of interagency cooperation is the assistance provided under the auspices of the Council of Europe and of Eurostat, to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in their special population census in 1994.

Trade

57. The Workshop of the CIS and Baltic States on regional trade, payments and economic cooperation (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 9-12 January 1995) is an example of cooperation with UNDP, UNCTAD and ITC in providing assistance to economies in transition.

58. A Seminar on Trade Facilitation and Countries in Transition held at Geneva on 19 September 1994 considered the priorities for action in this area, including improved coordination of international organizations to respond better to these priorities.

59. Two Regional Advisers have been appointed in the Trade Division, one for trade policy and investment and the other for trade facilitation. Since July 1994, missions have been carried out to Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation and Slovenia.

60. The Trade Division is cooperating with the European Commission's PHARE and TACIS programmes to integrate the recommendations, standards and guidelines developed through the working parties of the Committee on the Development of Trade into the technical assistance projects they undertake. Discussions have been held with EBRD, and the World Bank, as well as several bilateral technical assistance agencies toward the same objective.

Environment

61. Workshops organized in the field of environment during the period under review included such topics as environmental policies; environmental performance reviews; identification and screening of hazardous activities; strengthening the capability of future parties to comply with the obligations under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; bilateral and multilateral environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context and privatization and the environment process.

62. Market economy countries have financed these workshops either directly or through TFACT. In order to strive for synergy and avoid duplication with other international organizations and institutions, several workshops were organized in 1994 in cooperation with other institutions such as OECD on environmental performance reviews and with the PHARE programme on land registration and cadastre.

63. Through the regional adviser on environment, short-term advisory services are being provided for technical cooperation in pilot projects and training activities to assist countries in transition in adapting relevant policies, instruments and practices to comply with the regional environmental conventions. During the period under review half the countries in transition were visited, environmental problems identified, opportunities for assistance discussed and steps taken for follow-up action.

64. Special attention is being given to private-sector development, enterprise management (self-control, safety culture, responsible care approach) and to the strengthening of capabilities for environmental management accounting and auditing at enterprise level.

65. Preparations are under way to provide technical assistance to countries in transition for implementation of the ECE Convention on Transboundary Waters and International Lakes. A proposal to assist central Asian countries that will become Parties to the Convention in monitoring has been submitted to DDSMS. It is expected that assistance to other countries in transition will also be provided through similar projects to help them overcome problems in implementing the Convention.

66. Two ECE regional coordinating centres have been established under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents aimed at setting up a network of national centres in the ECE region, in particular in countries in transition in order to help them to reduce the risks of

industrial accidents and to strengthen their capabilities to prepare for and respond to such accidents.

Transport

67. The work in transport, including the legal instruments developed under the auspices of ECE, has proved very useful to the countries in transition. The legal instruments offer these countries a set of norms and standards for possible implementation. In some cases these provisions have been broadened to take into account the needs and concerns of those countries. Monitoring of the implementation of legal agreements is also being introduced.

68. A questionnaire was sent out to the countries in transition on the following matters:

(a) The experience they have acquired up to present with workshops, seminars, etc. dealing with transition-related problems;
(b) Identification of their needs in the transport sector, that are not yet taken care of bilaterally or multilaterally and that would permit a priority ranking of the assistance required from western Governments and international financial institutions and organizations.

69. A report on the methodological basis for the definition of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks was completed. The report should be taken into account in the identification of priority investment projects in CEEC which has been undertaken by the EC in the context of the G-24 Transport Group.

70. The Principal Working Party on Road Transport is currently working on measures aimed at facilitating of international road transport between eastern and western Europe. This should result in the formulation of concrete proposals on solving existing problems relating to border-crossing delays and other hindrances to international road transport.

71. The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety periodically revises legal instruments relating to road traffic and continues exchange of information on road traffic regulations in force in all ECE member countries. This enables countries in transition and, in particular, the newly independent States to adapt their road traffic regulations to those of more advanced economies.

72. The AGR, AGC and AGTC agreements were recognized by the Second PanEuropean Transport Conference as a basis for identifying long-term priority investment projects in central and eastern Europe. In this context the recent work on the inclusion of new international links in that part of Europe will be beneficial to countries in transition.

73. Questionnaires have been sent to all ECE countries to monitor the situation of training of drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods. A specific section relates to countries which are not Contracting Parties to ADR, including a large number of countries in transition.

74. Assistance to the CSCE initiated process on the establishment of two TIR transit corridors facilitating international transport and trade to alleviate the repercussions resulting from the embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

75. The first ECE-Eurostat Workshop on transport statistics, "The Organization and Automation of Transport Statistics", was held at The Hague, from 13 to 15 June 1994, with the participation of 12 countries in transition: Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Slovenia.

76. Advisory services and training were provided at two regional Seminars on the TIR Transit Regime (Budapest, 20-21 September 1994 and Pomporovo, Bulgaria, 5-6 October 1994) financed by the PHARE programme for Albania, Bulgaria, FYROM, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia.

77. The Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER) are projects of the CEEC countries managed through fund agreements for which ECE is the executing agency. The aim is the construction, upgrading and management of selected road, rail and combined transport networks with a view to ensuring reliable, fast and safe transport in this region particularly countries in transition. To this end, the participating countries cooperate in establishing standards, accelerating construction, exchanging know-how and identifying priorities and investment requirements.

78. The Inland Transport Committee at its fifty-seventh session in January 1995 requested all its subsidiary bodies to intensify their work on subjects of special interest to countries in transition. A round-table discussion on assistance to economies in transition might take place during the fifty-eighth session of the Committee in 1996. The programme of operational activities, including future workshops and advisory services is under preparation.

Energy

79. The demand for energy workshops has continued to increase and encompasses a wide range of topics related to market adaptation of coal industries in central and eastern Europe; reconversion of coal-mining sites; reassessment of coal and mineral deposits under market conditions; occupational safety and environmental protection in the underground coal industry; restructuring of electric power industry; cogeneration and district heating; new and renewable sources of energy; energy pricing and energy efficient technology. In addition, ad hoc meetings and symposia were held on energy efficiency standards and energy efficiency demonstration zones.

80. The advisory services started in May 1994 included a wide spectrum of issues such as energy efficiency, legislation for natural resources, coal classification systems and natural gas resources. The advisory services have resulted already in a joint ILO/ECE project in Belarus related to socio-economic revival through de-militarization, funded by UNDP. The project includes military concession, employment promotion, enterprise creation and energy conservation. The main aim of this innovative project is to establish energy efficiency demonstration zones on former military bases for small- and medium-sized enterprises and to use communication facilities for environmental monitoring.

81. The first stage of the Energy Efficiency 2000 programme was successfully completed. During the first three years, the priority of the "Energy Efficiency 2000" project was on increased contacts between businessmen, trade

officials, bankers, engineers and energy managers. The project held 46 meetings and events. Sixteen trade fair events with 4,500 participants, one third of whom were from central, eastern and southern Europe, 730 of whom were supported by the project's Trust Fund resources, with participants from 42 ECE member States taking part in 29 east and west European locations with 132,000 m2 of exhibition space devoted to energy efficient technology. In addition, ad hoc meetings were held on Energy Efficiency Standards (in Geneva) and on Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones (in Moscow, Rome and Newcastle-upon-Tyne) and Symposia in Bled, Paris, Moscow and Kiev. The participants in the project have been provided with a range of information services published as "East West Energy Efficiency". Some 10,000 copies of these have been disseminated in English, French and Russian. Consultations were held with UNDP on ECE cooperation in the preparatory assistance which will enable the formulation of a programme for transition to funding to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

82. Additional results of the project include some bilateral agreements such as the technical cooperation agreement between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom.

83. During the second three-year phase, which began on 1 June 1994, EE2000 will concentrate on financial engineering for energy efficiency projects in economies in transition and energy efficiency labels and standards.

84. The technical cooperation programme "Promotion and Development of a Market-based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition" has been successfully launched. The Trust Fund and an interim Advisory Board have been set up, consisting of representatives of organizations supporting the programme. The initial programme includes issues related to privatization and restructuring of the gas industry, gas pricing and management of the gas industry in economies in transition, putting emphasis on training of senior managers. Other activities will include establishing a network of organizations and individuals and a database on institutional and regulatory measures, as well as the investment projects.

85. The Committee on Energy approved the launching of a five year Implementation Programme on Accelerating Clean Coal Technology (IMPACCT) in order to promote access to available technology on a least-cost basis and to facilitate launching of pilot projects in economies in transition. The possibilities of funding support for this programme are being explored.

Industry

86. The programme of work of the subsidiary bodies and the regional advisory services in the field of industry and technology have been modified with a view to assisting the integration of the economies in transition into regional and global markets.

87. Among the projects of special interest to countries in transition, the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology assist the national authorities of the economies in transition in formulating and implementing science and technology policy by undertaking activities aimed at collecting and disseminating statistical data on main science and technology indicators compatible with the OECD methodology. A new programme activity, "Role of science and technology in securing sustainable development in the economies in

transition" was added to the work programme of the Senior Advisers in 1994. A comparative study of chemical legislation in ECE member States has been launched to assist the economies in transition in the formulation of their own legislative programmes. Another study on restructuring and changing ownership in the steel industry will identify trends in the change of ownership in the steel industry in different parts of the world, including the countries in transition. A review of the state-of-the art in robotics with emphasis on the economies in transition will contribute to solving special problems caused by industrial restructuring, changing ownership and unemployment. A training programme on standardization and related activities especially designed for countries in transition has also been launched.

88. The demand for advice and assistance, on both industry-related policy and techno-economic matters, from the countries in transition remains high. In 1994, the Industry and Technology Division has assisted host Governments to prepare and service 7 workshops in 6 different countries, 5 of them in transition, and 5 workshops in countries in transition are planned in 1995. A seminar on product statistics was held at Geneva. It was supported by the European Commission and had broad participation from the economies in transition.

89. A new edition of the Directory of Chemical Producers in Central and Eastern Europe was published recently. The directory assists European and other agencies to identify and establish direct contacts with producer firms in the economies in transition. As a follow-up to activities undertaken in the field of medical engineering, recent developments in clinical engineering will be reviewed. The work will focus on the needs of countries in transition, with emphasis on hospital technology and equipment.

90. The regional advisory services programme, established in late 1994, has been directed at analysing the difficulties of the transition process, reform reviews and the formulation of coherent national policies and strategies for the economies in transition. To date, 13 written requests have been received for assistance in the area of industry and technology, including 7 from central and eastern Europe, 1 from the Baltic States and 5 from the CIS. Technical cooperation and advisory services have also been launched to implement a pilot project demonstrating the environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals in the economies in transition.

91. An important issue for the economies in transition is advice on the promotion of SMEs. Assistance on the development of SME infrastructures is currently being offered within the framework of the Working Group on SMEs of the Central European Initiative. The preparation of country studies on SMEs has been started in Bulgaria, Georgia, Belarus and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. An umbrella project on the promotion of SMEs in the economies in transition is in the preparation process and financing is being sought.

Agriculture and Timber

92. Several workshops have been held and are planned related to sustainable agriculture and environment, including the setting up of a team of specialists and a roster of existing training centres; quality assurance of meat and meat products, including methods of food standardization and inspection; international harmonization of soil conservation monitoring systems; water

pollution; management of agricultural enterprises; evaluation of forest production including environmental and social benefits of forests; marketing of forest products, effects of global climate change on boreal and temperate forests, forest seed collection and storage, institution building and infrastructure for sustainable development.

93. All workshops pay particular attention to disseminating recommendations and results.

94. In June 1994 a team of specialists reviewed the Timber Committee's programmes for countries in transition in the light of work by other organizations and countries' needs and priorities and identified programme areas for priority activities.

95. ECE/FAO has been appointed international coordinator for the follow up of the resolution on Forestry Assistance to Countries in Transition of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The above-mentioned team designed an enquiry which was circulated in July. An interim inventory of all activities in this area (bilateral and multilateral) is to be submitted to the Helsinki follow-up meeting in Turkey in January 1995 which will decide on future action.

96. Other activities related to assistance to CITs include: preparation of forest and forest products sector country profiles for Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Ukraine (in addition to four earlier profiles); consideration of the outlook for the sector in the transition countries, including sustainability aspects, in the context of the fifth European timber trends study (ETTS V); team of specialists on problems arising from radiation contamination, particularly the Chernobyl disaster, i.e. two meetings and a workshop to deal with the major forest problem in Belarus and Ukraine, as millions of hectares may no longer be exploited and represent an extreme fire- and public-health hazard as well as a loss of income.

Human Settlements

97. In the field of human settlements workshops have covered such topics as training on cadastre; problems of historical cities in the new context; data processing in cadastre; and land registration and cadastre and housing problems and policies in the transition period, as well as housing in urban management.